

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 4 through 15, 29, 32 through 44, 58, and 60 are pending, with Claims 29 and 60 being independent. Claims 4 through 8, 10 through 12, 15, and 60 were allowed. Claims 6, 9, 13, 14, 29, 32 through 35, 37 through 39, 41, 58, and 60 have been amended.

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during a telephone conversation with Applicants' representative on December 17, 2009, during which proposed amendments were discussed.

FURTHER REMARKS

Claim 60 was objected to for informalities, while Claims 9, 13, 14, 29, 32 through 44, and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite (for use of means-plus-function language), and for various other specific objected-to language. And Claims 9, 13, 14, 29, 32 through 44, and 58 were indicated as being allowable if the foregoing were overcome. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of the claims in a manner earnestly believed to avoid the grounds of objection and rejection. In particular, with respect to the objection, the kind suggestion set forth in the Official Action has been adopted; with respect to the "means-plus-function" rejection, all such language has been deleted from the rejected claims as kindly suggested in paragraph (a) at p. 5 of the Official Action; and with respect to the other specific rejections, the objected-to language has been replaced.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims

discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned representative, Daniel S. Glueck, at (202) 530-1010 to schedule a personal interview.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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